



CONSTRUCTION BEGUN . . . Symbolic groundbreaking ceremonies Thursday marked the start of construction for the new \$300,000 Del Amo Convalescent Hospital at 226th St. and Kent. The new hospital, which will be headed by Jack Saylin, administrator of the Riviera Hospital next door, will

provide facilities, including 24-hour care by registered nurses, services of dietitians, radiologists, and laboratory scientists for 50 geriatric and convalescent patients. Walter and Lee Brown of Santa Monica are architects and contractors for the project. Nov. 20 has been set as completion date.

Mrs. Kenneth McVey, on Petitcoat Detail, Describes Life at the US Air Force Academy

By MRS. KENNETH McVEY

Having served the past year as Council president with 30 school represented in the PTA realm, when the Chamber of Commerce executive secretary, Dick Fitzgerald asked my permission to submit my name for nomination to the Air Force Academy, "School of the Sky" for a three day visit July 22-25 at Colorado Springs, Colo., I consented. It seemed to be a great opportunity to continue to learn first hand all about another group of youth whose life-long ambition is to lead in the air defense of this country. In short, find out first hand all about the young men of tomorrow who will be training not alone for defense of the United States but for national survival, survival of the civilization of which each of us are a part. To them we entrusted our security — the survival of all that we hold dear.

Twenty-six women representing 18 California communities were selected by the Air Force Association to make the trip. They were selected on the basis of their activities in civic, community and educational affairs. The communities ranged from San Francisco, San Diego and the Los Angeles Area.

Operation Petitcoat

We left Lockheed Air Terminal Thursday, July 23, on a chartered Air Force plane C-54. I was an administrator's plane with planning tables in excess, which of course we put to good use for bridge. It also had four bunk beds which we occupied the entire trip going over. For we had a song head wind, and the trip was "bumpy". With a fine six man crew in attendance we were given the deluxe service. The crew included Major F. Dwyer, Jr., pilot; Major Fredrick Matthews, co-pilot; T/Sgt. Elmer Power, T/Sgt. A. Herrera. Apparently the crew was enjoying "Operation Petitcoat," for there was a drastic change in protocol or perhaps we were just nice folks. Our official escort was Captain Dorota Wunderlich, Air Force office of Information services, hostess, Mrs. Elsie Alford, resident, Air Force Association, Los Angeles auxiliary.

We were taken by bus to the Air Academy from Peterson Air Field in Colorado Springs, which is located 10 miles north. I was riding along with many peaks of mountain ranges prominent in view. Twisting about hills and valleys. The countryside looked primitive with no sign of an Academy. With 18,000 acres to survey, I began to remember reading that my ancestors, the Cherokee Indians at the northern edge of the Academy grounds, once went on the warpath against a small and crude fort built to protect the settlers. I thought in small measure I am making up for them, by being symbolic in proving future generations can live together peacefully. (Besides, it would be no fun trying to scalp the cadets . . . ever see those super butch haircuts they wear?).

Atop a mesa and in the majestic setting of crags and towering peaks of mountains stand the Academy buildings. Marvels of functionalism in steel, aluminum, white marble and so much glass that crystal doors merge with picture windows almost to form picture walls. The buildings are in rectangular form. They are spectacular above all at night, when the lights within are on, glow

with soft incandescence against a backdrop of mountains give one a feeling of viewing a space age city. One thing is sure, there is plenty of wide open space surrounding it.

My agenda was worked out to the point I found myself almost to the stage along with the brand new recruits going every place on the double. They are required to run each time they leave their quarters, a rule set down by the upper classmen.

In Officers Quarters

Out billeting was at the visiting officers quarters. We each had a private room with lovely furnishings.

The first night was a social planned as a welcome with a dinner following. A large turnout of officers and wives greeted us and we were told about the plans for the following day.

The keen, thin air of Colorado night dropping down to a temperature of 55 degrees made me want to sleep a bit longer in the morning. Six a.m. . . a loud rapping on our doors and a louder voice that sounded like "Yup". I expected him to add 1-2-3 each morning.

Breakfast was interesting. Only reason I could get both eyes open at once was Robert Cummings, actor, and his son ate in the dining hall with us. They were there filming a recruiting sequence. Mary Cummings, his wife, was with us on all of the tour and was an avid supporter of the Academy. A most delightful person to talk to.

Friday we were able to cover many areas of the Academy by walking, and walking. Then going to scheduled briefings to learn the entire program. We visited such places as the Cadet's quarters, library, theatre, stadium, social hall, rampart range, planetarium. Many traditions are upheld by the cadets. One being, it is taboo for a female to be in the dining hall. Of course, not one could eat in this large place which can set 3000. We went through the dining hall at 3 p.m. Just to be able to say we had eaten in forbidden area, some of the ladies nibbled a cracker on the tour though. As for me, it didn't make that much difference. (But I had a heck of a time getting cracker crumbs out of my powder puff.)

The briefings included topics on curriculum, requirements of a candidate, typical cadet's day, history and future plans for the Academy. Another tradition they apparently tried to manufacture, that Cathedral Rock, a wind sculptured natural formation out on the campus by itself, should become a lover's lane. However, it seems the rattlesnakes were there first . . . girls can't think of romance and rattlesnakes at the same time. It meant a rattler hunt or a new trysling place.

Educational Program

The academic program I feel goes along with our own philosophy of "Educating the Whole Man." General Curtis LeMay stated the educational program must do more than turn out men with knowledge of space weapons and vehicles. It must produce men to understand society and economy. Our young officers must be graduated with a basic knowledge of their social, political heritages, with cultural achievements, to develop his ability to think clearly, make

sound judgments, and express himself effectively. There are 1500 cadets, with each new class increasing in size. This year's new class numbers 748. The requirements are high. There were 600 applicants this year. Torrance is the proud hometown of a new recruit, Merrill Eastcott, 3730 176th St.

We were scheduled for a visit to NORAD, North American Air Force Defense Command at Colorado Springs on Friday. This is an integrated headquarters designed to control all of North America's and Canada's air defense forces. General Earl Partridge, joint Chief of Staff, has operational control of all forces assigned to NORAD, which is made up of all services in the United States. This I knew by reading the brochure, but I was not prepared for my profound impression when guided into a windowless, concrete block structure that housed the nerve center of North America.

In this huge room was one of the most intricate array of instruments, machines, of all descriptions, while in the center was a huge piece of plexiglass, perhaps the size of a city block, upon which is etched the geographical boundaries of the United States and the Northern portion of the Western Hemisphere. I couldn't possibly figure it all out, so waited for our briefing. I learned inside this room every unknown man-caused movement within North American skies is monitored and plotted on the main surveillance board. It patrols an area of more than three million square miles and over 10,000 miles of border. The detection of unidentified aircraft is primarily by radar. Also a flow of reports coming over machines resembling stock market ticker tapes from all over the United States, Canada, Alaska and other Northern Polar regions, concerning the positions and sightings of unknown aircraft spotted within these areas. In each area there is a network of radar screens providing us with the advance warning we must have should an attack come.

Maneuvers

A mock squadron of unidentified planes were intercepted by NORAD procedure for the benefit of the group. In many areas, different colored lights started flashing, bells ringing, machines clicking. They were all very significant to the plotting technicians. We watched step by step as it was sketched on the surveillance board. Films were shown of all the air defense vehicles that are at the disposal of the Air Defense Command, viewing many missile and nuclear weapons. I

Mystic East To Provide Park Themes

The mystic East will provide the motif for special events at Torrance play areas this week, according to the Torrance Recreation Department.

"Oriental Days" activities will include: TORRANCE PARK—Oriental costume parade, noon Wednesday; Oriental games, 11 a.m. Friday; Far Eastern quiz, 1 p.m. Thursday. WALTERIA — Oriental hat contest and cook-out (bring

was given fact sheets and 8x10 glossy prints of the above. Also movie men were with the group from the time we arrived until we boarded plane. Each woman will be given a 16mm color movie of the entire trip.

Each moment was so filled with information to absorb in a very short time. I found myself summarizing on the plane back. Our pilot gave us an extended tour of the Grand Canyon. I began to think seriously

of my own conclusions of all that I had seen and heard. I believe we are in very good hands in the youth of tomorrow, if it be in future teachers helping guard against inadequacy to fill the needs of society, or the youth training to guard our skies against aggressors. I feel we are secure, but only with CONSTANT VIGILANCE and minds that are adaptable to the rapid pace of scientific and economic change which is the mark of our time.



CHECKS OVER MEMENTOS . . . Mrs. Kenneth McVey, who visited the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs two weeks ago, looks over pictures and other material she gathered during the four-day visit. Along with 25 other women representing 18 California communities, Mrs. McVey was given an inside peak at one of the strongholds of our national defense. (Herald photo)

Kiddies End Summer Stint At Breakfast

First and second graders at Calle Mayor Elementary School cooked their own breakfasts Friday to climax their summer studies of health.

Their teacher, Mrs. Blessing Moore, helped them prepare oatmeal and buttered toast to go with milk and orange juice. The students had been learning about various health facts and about the need for a good breakfast in the morning. Students formed committees to bring necessary materials.

coat-hangers), 12:30 p.m. Wednesday; carrom tournament, 11 a.m. Monday.

EL RETIRO — Beggars' Day costume parade, feed and marshmallow roast, 1 p.m. Friday. (Bring lunch in scarf on pole.)

SEA-AIRE — Costume parade, games and cook-out, 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

Stronger Steel Predicted By Torrance Industrialist

Strengthening of steel beyond its present upper limit of 300,000 pounds per square inch is predicted by W. R. Patterson, general superintendent of the steel departments of the Torrance plant of The National Supply Co.

Patterson says, "There is reason, based on sound metallurgical theory, to believe that the figure could be much higher, and man is certainly going to encounter a situation, if we are not already faced with it, where higher strength in the material is vital to some need."

Tracing the history of steel from the time in the 19th century when it first became recognized by that name, Patterson points out that for some time after steel was first used there was considerable confusion between the terms "iron" and "steel."

"THE AMERICAN Institute of Mining Engineers, in the year 1876, upon the recommendation of an international committee, attempted to describe these materials so specifically that no further confusion could exist," he says.

"Steel was described as a malleable compound of iron which would harden and temper. This would distinguish it from the soft, or wrought iron, which is quite malleable but does not contain enough alloying elements to permit it to be hardened. It is quite possible that the iron found in excavations and dating back many centuries was actually steel by this concept, since analyses of the material indicate that some hardening is possible."

Patterson states that "the Steel Age, as such, is generally felt to have begun with the in-

roduction of the Bessemer process in 1857. In this process molten pig iron was treated by blowing air through it until the carbon was removed by oxidation. Carbon and manganese in prescribed amounts were then added to produce material which would meet the desired strength level. By this time so-called mild steel was available for construction purposes which had consistently reliable strength of 60,000 pounds per square inch or so."

THE DESIRABLE quality characteristics of steel made in small crucibles encouraged development of a cheaper method of producing a comparable product, Patterson notes.

"Steel making on the open hearth was first practiced in France in 1865. This additional cheap method of producing steel, following closely on the heels of the Bessemer method, really launched the Steel Age in great style and the two methods grew together as formidable rivals."

Use of alloys, to increase strength or resist corrosion, increased steel's usefulness in many directions, the local executive says. The Alloy Age was given impetus by the development of the electrical melting furnace and the demands for superior steel resulting from World War I.

"AT FIRST the electrical furnace method was considered too costly to compete with any method but the crucible process, and was largely used for the production of very special tool steels," he declares. "The need for better steels in war stimulated the electric furnace steel industry, and by 1930 there were 323 electric furnaces being used, although this method still accounted for less than 2 per cent of total steel production."

By 1920, the American Society for Testing Materials listed specifications for heat treated alloy steels which called for strengths of 120,000 pounds per square inch. In the 1940's, strength levels of 150,000 pounds per square inch or more began to appear in specifications.

SOME PRESENT day steels "show respectable toughness at strengths of 300,000 pounds per square inch and above when tested at normal temperatures; and perhaps more im-

portant, a strength at temperatures over 1000 degrees F. that shows great promise," Patterson declares.

"A relatively few elements, mainly silicon, manganese, chromium, molybdenum, nickel, vanadium, tungsten, and perhaps six or seven others, have been found to add materially to the useful properties of steel. Steel makers have learned to add and control accurately the amount of these elements they wish to include; and yet most steel metallurgists realize there is still much to be learned from continued study in the effect of many other elements on the properties of steel.

"NOT ALL elements improve the properties of steel and some must be eliminated by a greater amount of refinement than is common in the industry today. Gases, other than oxygen, are now known to have an influence on quality. The relatively recent growth in the new field of melting steels under vacuum not only promises the opportunity to control the gases such as oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen which have always been present, but will also permit the addition of many elements in controllable amounts which could not be added successfully using previously existing furnaces. Research metallurgists are eagerly studying properties of the alloys newly compounded in the hope of answering some of today's and tomorrow's needs for supermetals."

Patterson received the degree of bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1936 and also studied metallurgy there. Joining The National Supply Co., he served as a field engineer, but during World War II was transferred to the Torrance plant for research on armor and gun steels. After serving as plant metallurgist and chief metallurgist, he was named general superintendent of the steel producing and processing departments in 1949. He is responsible both for production operations and for the research and development activities in those departments.

Patterson is a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, American Society for Metals, American Foundrymen's Society, and other technical and trade groups.

POPULATION GUESS California's population at the end of 1955 was estimated at 13.25 million.

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